



NEWSLETTER

October 2018

The Clarion Newsletter — Volume 33, Number 10

Next General Meeting

Tuesday, November 20th, 7:30pm

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming General Membership meeting on November 20th, starting at 7:30pm.

As a reminder, there is no General Membership meeting in October. For the November meeting, we will be hosted by the Engineer's Club, located at 11 W. Mount Vernon Place and the MVBA November election will take place promptly at 7:30pm. Ballots will be provided at the beginning of the meeting and must be cast no later than 8:30pm to be counted.

We welcome Johns Hopkins University representatives, Jennifer Mielke, Director of Local & Community Affairs and Thomas (Tom) Lewis, Vice President of Government and Community Affairs for a follow-up discussion regarding the

formation of the JHU Police Department. We also welcome Cory McCray, District 45 State Delegate (and current Primary Election Winner for District 45 State Senator) to outline his plans for the coming year.

Additionally, we've invited representatives from the Penn Station Partners, the development group behind the redevelopment of Penn Station just North of Mount Vernon, to discuss their exciting plans that are underway. Also attending the meeting will be Baltimore City representatives Matt Achhamer, Baltimore City Liquor Board Community Liaison and Jabari Lyles, Baltimore City LGBTQ Community Liaison to introduce themselves and to discuss their new roles within Baltimore City.

As always, our general meetings are free and open to the public, members and non-members alike. Please join us to discuss important issues and events related to our Mount Vernon community in November.

Upcoming MVBA November Election

The November 20th MVBA Board Election will take place as stated above. **To vote in this election, please be sure that your MVBA membership is current.** As mentioned in last month's newsletter, this election cycle has two (2) Director positions up for election and the candidates listed below will have an opportunity to address the general membership.

Nominated and Board-Recommended Director Position

Candidates --Steve Shen (incumbent), Jack Danna, and Kira Wisniewski.

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Short bios for each candidate follow below.

Steve Shen *(incumbent)*

Since moving to Baltimore in 2002, Steve has volunteered over 20,000 hours and raised over \$450,000 in grant funding for Mount Vernon initiatives. As a member and/or chair of the MVBA architectural review, development, zoning, property stewardship, and liquor committees, he has helped review or advise on approximately 3,300 projects with investments totaling over \$775 million.

As Mount Vernon's at-large elected representative to Midtown District from 2006-2015, former board vice chair, and ten-year chair of the operations committee (with clean, green, and safety subcommittees), Steve initiated and led a successful five-year effort to raise funds, design, and install 25 high definition security cameras in the Charles Street and W Read Street commercial corridors of Mount Vernon in the city's first public-private partnership with the Baltimore Police Department's CitiWatch program. Other projects included logistical studies which led to improvements in Midtown cleaning efficiency by up to 500%, construction of a water tanker and stake bed trucks, increased mechanical street sweeping, acquiring over 100 corner baskets, collaborative code enforcement with the city for illegal dumping, and overhead cost reductions. At Midtown, he also pioneered service requests/tracking, graffiti tracking (leading to the arrest and conviction of a prolific vandal), bag removal from trees, targeted

snow removal, and six ton bulk purchases of eco-friendly magnesium chloride de-icer for local residents and businesses.

From 2011-2014, Steve was a member of the steering committee for the Mount Vernon Area Master Plan and working member of the development, transportation, and open space committees, which culminated in a 141-page comprehensive plan document. He has also been a member of the 2-Way Traffic Study steering committee, advocated for the Downtown Bicycle Network, was a key negotiator for the 2008 Homeless Resource Center MOU with the city, and helped draft the 2006 Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Plan and MV Guidelines For New Construction. Steve has also served since 2009 as MVBA's representative to the Charles Street Development Corporation board, serving on the executive committee. Projects include successful removal and re-planting of over 75 large caliper matched-species trees on Charles Street and corridor-wide safety initiatives. Steve was among the 22 inaugural graduates in 2013 of the city's TreeKeepers program.

Jack Danna

Jack Danna began his career in Baltimore in 2001 as the Director of the Pigtown Main Street Program, located on Washington Boulevard. During his six-year tenure, he led a community-based commercial revitalization initiative modeled after the National Main Street Program. This effort included creation of the Annual Pigtown Festival (along with its signature event – the “Running of the Pigs”), to focus attention on the neighborhood’s pride and history. The long-running festival is still popular today. Danna also created a \$275,000 revolving loan fund to support commercial development and business recruitment, and implemented an aggressive facade restoration program. His work was recognized at the National Main

Street Conference in Baltimore in 2005 for excellence in urban commercial district revitalization. Prior to leaving in 2007, Danna completed one of Baltimore's most successful community-led eminent domain efforts – a \$2.75 million initiative along Washington Boulevard (Pigtown's Main Street).

In 2007, Danna joined the Local Initiative Support Corporation's (LISC) Commercial Markets Advisory division in New York City until 2010. In this capacity, he helped plan LISC's Urban Forum 2008 – a national planning and community development conference – in Indianapolis, Indiana. He also assisted in the creation of a comprehensive retail district market analysis for Downtown New Rochelle, New York, and managed the Commercial Markets Advisory online resource catalogue that serves 50 urban community development affiliates nationwide.

Danna has a Master's Degree in Urban Studies from Queens College in New York City. He completed a graduate thesis titled "Contesting Willets Point in the Aspirational City." The thesis examined the planning concepts behind New York City's \$4 billion redevelopment plan for Willets Point located in the immigrant community of Corona, Queens. The thesis also evaluated the effectiveness of the City's Willets Point Worker Assistance Program designed to mitigate worker displacement as result of the development plan.

Danna resides close to Central Baltimore in the Mount Vernon, neighborhood, with his cat, Paco.

Kira Wisniewski

Kira is someone who turns ideas into reality—whether it's running [a successful collaborative art show](#), developing an [interactive karaoke-based experience that celebrates friendship](#), or creating [a satirical trailer](#) for a movie that will never (and should never) be made.

Kira served for over eight years as Director of Operations at the [National Women's Studies Association](#), the academic association for the field of women and gender studies. She co-founded [826DC](#) (formerly Capitol Letters) , a non-profit that provides free programming including creative writing workshops, student publications, field trips, and after-school tutoring for K-12 students in the nation's capital. Additionally, Kira serves on the Baltimore City Women's Commission, as an [Awesome Foundation Baltimore](#) Trustee, the Grand Rapids Customer Advisory Board, is active with [Fluid Movement](#), and has the pleasure of volunteering with [Special Olympics DC](#) Unified basketball every winter. Originally from Florida, Kira has called Mount Vernon home since 2012 where she currently lives with her partner and their pet rabbit.

Other Nominated Director Position Candidates --

Andrew (Andy) Klymkowsky and Stefan Popescu.

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Short bios for each candidate follow below.

Andrew (Andy) Klymkowsky

Andrew Klymkowsky is a 3 year resident of Baltimore City. Andrew currently works for Reveal Real Estate, a boutique real estate development and management company. Over the last 3 years Andrew has lived in Federal Hill, Canton, Fells, and most recently Mount Vernon. Originally from Boulder, Colorado, Andrew has a

strong connection to green initiatives and maintains a healthy growing community. During his stay in Baltimore, Andrew has partaken in and led coalitions to help biking safety in the city, clean up streets, lower drug-trafficking and crime, as well as increase community growth. Working with city officials, local community groups, and business leaders, Andrew has a great understanding of both the problems and the many solutions that can help Baltimore grow.

Andrew graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.S. in Integrated Physiology, a Pre-Medical major. During his university years and into his first few professional years, Andrew was a founding employee at Sanitas Brewing Company – a start-up craft brewery located in Boulder, Colorado. While living in Boulder, Andrew enjoyed hiking, rock climbing, snowboarding and other outdoor activities. He also ran a honey farm and a goat farm on his parents' property. In early 2015 Andrew moved to Baltimore for his employment at Reveal Real Estate. During his tenure at Reveal, Andrew has worked all over the city building and developing everything including low-income houses, luxury apartment buildings, restaurants, and office spaces. While living in Baltimore, Andrew frequents the local museums (Walters being his favorite), takes advantage of nearby hiking trails, and continues to rock climb at the local gym. Andrew has worked hand-in-hand with the Mayor's office, City Council, Section 8, HUD, and other government agencies in Baltimore City. Additionally Andrew works directly with up to 250 tenants daily, giving him a deep understanding of the qualms the majority of individuals residing in Baltimore deal with on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis.

Andrew possesses the experience, sense of civic duty, and first-hand knowledge to help the MVBA continue to grow and help better

the Mount Vernon-Belvedere area.

Stefan Popescu

Stefan has been a resident of Baltimore City for nearly 6 years. In that time, he has done numerous construction and development projects in the city as well as started a full property management company. Stefan has a vast knowledge of the entirety of the city and has lived in numerous neighborhoods including West Baltimore, Federal Hill, Butchers Hill, Mount Vernon, Fells Point, and Canton. Stefan has been working in the real estate field for nearly 10 years beginning during his tenure as a student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Stefan played collegiate rugby and other team sports, which has honed his inherent drive to improve both himself and those around him. At Vanderbilt, Stefan studied civil engineering and continued his studies to receive his Masters' degree in Structural Engineering from Catholic University of America in Washington DC. He pursued a career in construction as a Project Engineer at Whiting Turner. In 2013, Stefan moved to Baltimore to begin his own development company focused on improving the real estate and living in Baltimore one property at a time. Originally from New York City, Stefan has been involved with numerous and varied communities and has worked hard to improve every new area he finds himself in. After starting Reveal Real Estate, Stefan branched out into numerous projects across Baltimore city, creating new and vibrant communities and businesses. With an unrivaled work ethic and a contagious determination, Stefan is constantly working to improve Baltimore city. Specific areas of accomplishment are neighborhood and vacant property clean ups, working with city agencies to clean and remove trash, community outreach for both businesses and

individuals, creating a stronger and safer community for everyone, fundraising for local law enforcement, and helping community safety. Stefan brings an enormous amount of motivation, enthusiasm, knowledge, and determination to the table, and I believe would be a an incredible asset to the MVBA.

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Director *(2 positions serving 3-year term)*

Steve Shen & Open Director Position, Current Directors

The purpose and function of the Board of Directors of the Association shall be to provide advice and consent to the President in the day-to-day management of the Association's affairs.

Additional Responsibilities include:

- *Meeting and acting as a board to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of meetings and management of the Association as are deemed proper, not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Association.*
- *Participate in the planning of the meetings of the Association and to prepare recommendations for the membership.*
- *Approve the expenditures funds by the officers of the Association and to adopt a budget for the Association each year;*
- *Receive an annual statement of income and expense and provide for its audit;*
- *Act on behalf of the issue(s) at a general meeting of the full membership.*
- *Executive such additional duties as may be required by the By-laws, as amended from time to time.*

Time Commitment for Position:

10+ hours per week

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In addition to the responsibilities listed above, all board members are expected to act as a *Chair/Co-Chair of a MVBA Committee.*

Best wishes to all of the candidates that are running!

New MVBA Business Members

Each month, we will be recognizing businesses that join MVBA membership. So, join MVBA by clicking [HERE](#).

If you have any questions on membership, please reach out to our Membership Committee Chair, Julie Canard at membership@mvba.org.

Encourage your neighbors and other businesses in Mount Vernon to become members of MVBA. It is only \$20 for Individuals and \$50 for Businesses, per year, to become a member.



Next Business Round Table: Fall Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday | October 17th | 9-11am

12 W. Madison Street

(corner of Madison & Morton Streets)

Our Fall Business Round Table meeting will be held tomorrow,
Wednesday, October 17th from 9-11am.

MVBA continues to welcome all local Business Owners to our
quarterly Business Round Table at 12 W. Madison Street
(corner of Madison & Morton Streets).

We hope to see you there!

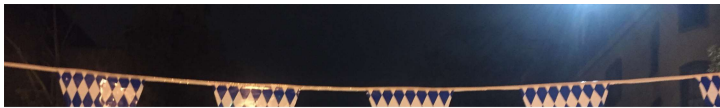


Oktoberfest Mount Vernon 2018

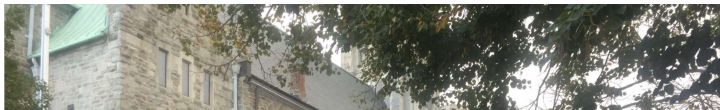
Was a HUGE Success!

Well, the Oktoberfest Mount Vernon 2018 was another successful event and a huge THANK YOU to The Agora Companies, our premier sponsor, as well as our other sponsors: ASH, Hotel Revival, Co-Op at Madison, and Stuckey Design.

Folks had a fantastic time with great local beer, food and amazing entertainment for this 2-day event. A big THANK YOU to our vendors including: Akbar, Baltimore Center Stage, Brewhouse No. 16, Cafe Fili, Dooby's, The Elephant, Hotel Revival's Topside, Lord of Baltimore Hotel, Marie Louise Bistro, Spirits of Mount Vernon, Sugarvale, T-Swirl Crepes and Wilkes School.



Without the help of some amazing volunteers, this event would not have been a success. A special THANK YOU is in order to Lisa Tae Albanowski, Mario Brandhorst, Scott Brillman, Julie Canard, Teddy Davidson, Steve Johnson, John Molino, Jerry Murphy, Dennis Richter, Drew Rieger, Steve Shen and Kira Wisniewski.



Oktoberfest 2019 dates will be decided upon soon!



Remembrance Sunday at Grace & St. Peter's Episcopal Church



Sunday, November 11th | 10am

707 Park Avenue



On the occasion of the centenary anniversary of the end of
World War One, Grace & St. Peter's Episcopal church, located

at 707 Park Avenue, will be keep Remembrance Sunday on November 11th.

At 10 am, the Antonio Lotti requiem mass will be offered by the church's professional choir as part of the Sunday service, along with the national anthems of America and her allies. A guest preacher, the Rev. Gene Tucker, who served in the Army Chorus and as a staff singer at the National Cathedral, will offer the homily. A reception will follow in the church's historic rectory, adjacent to the church.

Visitors and guests are most welcome to attend.



Midtown Baltimore Town Hall Fall Meeting

Voted in At-Large Member for Mt. Vernon

Join us in congratulating Steve Johnson on his win for the at-large Board Member for Mount Vernon on October 3rd at the Midtown Baltimore Town Hall Meeting.

Congratulations Steve!

Coming Up in November

- MVBA General Election

Wednesday, November 20th, 7:30pm

The Engineer's Club, 11 W. Mount Vernon Place

CONTACTS 2018

Officers

President	Michele Richter	president@mvba.org
Vice President	Wesley Stuckey	vicepresident@mvba.org
Treasurer	Onahlea Shimunek	treasurer@mvba.org
Recording Secretary	—	secretary@mvba.org
Corresponding Secretary	Lex Wiesand	corrsecretary@mvba.org

Directors

Mario Brandhorst
Julie Canard
Teddy Davidson
John Molino
Steve Shen

Committees

Architectural Review	Steve Shen	arc@mvba.org
Business	Onahlea Shimunek	business@mvba.org
Children's Park	John Molino	childrenspark@mvba.org
Clean + Beautiful	Michele Richter	cleanandbeautiful@mvba.org
Community Service + Engagement	Teddy Davidson	community@mvba.org
Development	Steve Shen	development@mvba.org
Dog Park	Marci Yankelov Bea Harris	dogpark@mvba.org
Grants	Teddy Davidson	grants@mvba.org
Liquor Review	Michele Richter	liquor@mvba.org
Marketing + Promotions	Wesley Stuckey	marketing@mvba.org
Membership	Julie Canard	membership@mvba.org
Parking + Transportation	Steve Johnson	parking@mvba.org
Safety	Vicki Schassler	safety@mvba.org
Trees + Greening	MJ Dame	trees@mvba.org
Zoning	Steve Shen	zoning@mvba.org

Ex-Officio

Jason Curtis
Jack Danna
Steve Johnson
Brian Levy

To contact members by phone, call MVBA's main number 410-528-1919 and select the desired extension from the menu.—

Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association, 1 East Chase Street, Suite 2, Baltimore, MD 21202

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